



HABITAT MANAGEMENT (CSP Enhancements)

WEST VIRGINIA 2005

CSP Enhancement Activity Task Sheet



Enhancement Activities

Enhancements activities refer to actions that provide resource benefits beyond the level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards. Once implemented, enhancement activities should result in an observable or measurable improvement to the condition of one or more of the soil, water, air, plant or animal resources; or provide for more efficient resource utilization and/or energy conservation.

Enhancement Activity Benefits

Enhancement activities associated with habitat management, such as not mowing incidental grassy areas, can result in the following benefits to the producer and the environment:

- Increased hunting and fishing opportunities
- Increased population of beneficial animals
- Increased wildlife viewing opportunities

CSP Payments

You can earn enhancement payments by improving the quality of the wildlife habitat on your farm. Some of the factors used to determine the quality of wildlife habitat include the following:

- Percentage of over-winter crop residue left on the ground
- Presence of grasses and legumes in crop rotations
- Grassy areas left undisturbed during the nesting season

- Percentage of non-row crop vegetation left as wildlife cover

Some of the activities that may help you improve your level of payment:

- Manage for barn owls
- Managing grasslands, riparian buffers, or field borders around crop fields
- Replacing non-native grasses that do not benefit wildlife with native grass species
- Managing nest structures
- Managing wildlife brush piles



NRCS will help you assess the habitat needs on your property and must approve the design of the selected practices prior to payment.

CSP Enhancement earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.



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Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

I have elected to use the following habitat management activities and understand the requirements of the selected activities (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Maintain a minimum 20 ft wide forb/legume stand adjacent to waterways, fencerows or woodlots
- ☐ Disturbance of habitat during the nesting season is not performed (April 15 – July 15) or (March 15 – July 15)*
- ☐ Maintain a grass or tree buffer a minimum of 40 feet wide with 50% of the grass being native warm season species
- ☐ Maintain a grass or tree buffer a minimum of 60 feet wide with 50% of the grass being native warm season species
- ☐ Manage and maintain a riparian forest buffer on all perennial streams a minimum of 60 feet wide
- ☐ Manage for wildlife friendly species by replacing non-beneficial grasses with recommended species beneficial to wildlife
- ☐ Leave uncut areas in hayfields a minimum of 100 feet wide for pollinators
- ☐ Manage and maintain cavity nesting bird and mammal habitat
- ☐ Manage and maintain barn owl habitat
- ☐ Manage cropland using 30-60 ft grass/forb field borders adjacent to crop fields (50% native warm season grasses)
- ☐ Manage brush piles along field edges**

* The primary nesting season varies by local region. For the Lower Muskingum/Middle Island Creek Watershed, the primary nesting season has been determined to be (April 15 – July 15). In all other West Virginia watersheds the primary nesting season is (March 15 – July 15).

** This enhancement is not available in the Lower Muskingum/Middle Island Creek Watershed

1. I agree that upon request the following information may be required to be provided to NRCS before this enhancement activity can be certified:
 - Written documentation of the wildlife habitat improvements installed.
 - Maps and photographs of the wildlife habitat improvements installed.
 - Copies of dated receipts for material or services purchased.
2. I understand that CSP Enhancement earnings are subject to payment caps and that my actual payments will depend on my CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.
3. I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of these activities.

Client's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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Certification by NRCS: _____

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client and certify this activity has been applied.

[illegible]

Use additional sheets if necessary.